

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
FOR
THE MISSOURI YOUNG FARM WIVES ASSOCIATION**

CONSTITUTION

Article I - Name and Purposes

Section A: The name of this association shall be the Missouri Young Farm Wives Association. Members are hereinafter referred to as Missouri Young Farm Wives.

Section B: The primary objective of the Missouri Young Farm Wives program is to include vocational homemaking with the Young Farmers program, to better enable the young farm wife to have a choice of emphasis in her adult training.

Article II - Organization

Section A: The Missouri Young Farm Wives Association is an organization of young women who are interested in agriculture and the importance of building a strong farm home. It shall consist of local associations chartered by the State Association. A local association shall be composed of members from one or more school districts.

Section B: Local associations may become and remain affiliated with the State Association by complying with the procedure outlined in the bylaws.

Section C: The fiscal year for this association shall be February 1 through January 31.

Section D: The National Young Farmer Educational Association (NYFEA) is national organization and The Missouri Young Farm Wives Association is a state organization with individual membership. Members selected from the State Executive Committee serve as delegates to the national organization.

Article III - Membership

Section A: The membership of this association shall be of two kinds:

- 1) Active
- 2) Honorary

Section B: Active Membership - Any person past high school with an interest in agriculture is eligible to become an active member of the local association.

Section C: Honorary Membership --Individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the Missouri Young Farm Wives Association, and/or to the general improvement of homemaking conditions, may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the state executive committee.

Article IV - Officers

Section A: Local Officers -- The officers of the local association shall be: President, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Other officers may be elected if desired. Officers shall be elected annually.

Section C: State Officers -- Each vocational agriculture district in Missouri, having at least one active association, shall select one young farm wife to serve as a state officer. State officers shall serve a term of two years. A district officer may serve consecutive terms if necessary, to fill a vacancy on the executive board, not to exceed two consecutive terms. Each even numbered district shall elect one state officer in even numbered years to serve two years, and each odd numbered district shall elect one state officer in odd numbered years to serve two years. Each district shall determine how its district officer is selected. Districts shall be numbered as follows: Northwest - 1; Northeast - 2; Central - 3; Southwest - 4; South Central - 5; and Southeast - 6.

1. President - The assembled delegates at the state convention shall elect a president for a one-year term. The president shall have served the previous year as a state officer. She may not succeed herself. Qualified officers desiring to be considered for president will be permitted to appear before the delegates.
2. Vice Presidents - The remaining officers shall be called vice presidents. The officers shall select from the vice presidents individuals to serve as 1st vice president; 2nd vice president; secretary-treasurer; reporter; and historian.
3. Filling Vacancies - If for any reason an office becomes vacant, the area from which the vacancy occurs shall select a replacement. If the office cannot be filled within that district, then a member from another district can be elected to fill the position for the full two year term by the delegate body.

Section D: Advisor (or advisors) --

1. Local Advisors -- The local association shall elect an advisor or advisory committee consisting of the local officers. The advisor (or advisory committee) would work in conjunction with the advisor of the local Young Farmers Association.
2. State Advisor -- The Director of Agricultural Education, State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Jefferson City, Missouri, shall serve as state advisor.

Article V - Executive Committee

Section A: Composition of the State Executive Committee: The state executive committee shall be composed of the state officers and the immediate past president.

Section B: The executive committee shall conduct the business of the State Association, subject to such regulations, bylaws, and state programs of work as have been adopted by delegates. They shall take part in planning programs for the Convention.

Section C: A voting quorum for the executive committee shall consist of at least four voting members of the committee. A quorum must be present at any meeting at which business is transacted or a vote taken making recommendations to the association.

Article VI - Meetings

Section A: A state convention shall be held annually in conjunction with the Missouri Young Farmers Association.

Section B: Each association may have two voting delegates to the state convention.

Section C: Meetings on the local level shall be left to each local association.

Section D: Parliamentary procedure at all meetings of this association shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Article VII - Amendments

Section A: Proposed amendments to the state constitution or bylaws must be submitted in writing by authorized representatives of a local association to the state executive committee, and, together with their recommendations, be submitted by them to delegates in state convention. Amendments to the state constitution or bylaws may be adopted at any state convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present.

Section B: The state executive committee shall submit the proposed amendment to each chapter in the state no later than January 1 of the year it is to be presented to the delegates at the state convention.

Article VIII - Dues

Section A: Annual membership dues in the State Association shall be set by voting delegates present at the convention.

Section B: The membership year shall be from July 1 through June 30.

Section C: The dues of any local association shall be fixed by the association executive committee, subject to approval of a majority vote of the active members of the association.

Section D: The membership dues in the national association shall be set by the NYFEA delegate assembly.

Article IX – Dissolution of Assets

In the event of dissolution, assets of the association shall be utilized exclusively for charitable or educational purposes as determined by a majority vote of the delegates in session.

BYLAWS

Article I - Duties of Officers

Section A: Presidents --

1. State President - It shall be the duty of the Missouri Young Farm Wives president to preside at all meetings of the State Association of the Missouri Young Farm Wives and to serve as chairman of the state executive committee. The president shall appoint all committees and may serve as an ex-officio member of these committees.
2. Local President - The local president shall perform the duties and have the responsibilities customarily delegated to presidents.

Section B: Vice Presidents --

1. State 1st Vice President - It shall be the duty of the state officer designated 1st vice president to preside at all meetings of the association in the absence of the president and assist the president at all times in carrying on the work of the association.
2. State 2nd Vice President - The state officer designated 2nd vice president shall preside at all meetings of the association in the absence of the 1st vice president and the president
3. Local Vice President - It shall be the duty of the local vice president to perform the duties customarily assigned to vice presidents.

Section C: Secretaries --

1. State Secretary-Treasurer - It shall be the duty of the state officer designated secretary-treasurer to see that minutes of the State Association and executive committee meetings are kept, properly distributed, and permanently filed. She shall see that accounts are kept of any financial transactions of the State Association.
2. Local Secretary - The local secretary shall perform the duties normally associated with the office of secretary and other duties as may be prescribed by their respective associations.

Section D: Treasurer -- The local treasurer shall perform the duties of the office as prescribed by their respective associations.

Section E: Reporter -- It shall be the duty of the reporter to report promptly and correctly items of interest relating to Young Farm Wives work for publication in the state newsletter.

Section F: Historian -- It shall be the duty of the historian to collect all press releases and pictures, or articles which describe activities of the membership, as individuals or chapters, or action taken by the organization as part of its program. She shall prepare a yearbook which contains this material, and shall assist in planning and maintaining all permanent records of the organization.

Section G: State Advisor -- It shall be the duty of the State Advisor to:

1. Advise the State organization regarding the development of the organization and matters of policy.

2. Serve in other capacities necessary to further the interests of the organization.
3. The state advisor shall have authority to designate a member of the staff of vocational agriculture to serve as executive secretary of the State Association.

Section H: Executive Secretary -- The executive secretary, in general, shall carry out the details of the state program as directed by the state advisor.

Article II - Committees

Section A: The president of the Missouri Young Farm Wives Association shall appoint all state committees annually. The committees shall include the program of work committee, and other committees as determined by the executive committee.

Section B: The program of work committee shall set up the objectives and goals of the State Association and suggest ways and means of attaining them.

Article III - Procedures

Section A: Issuing Charters to Association -- Local associations of the Missouri Young Farm Wives shall apply to the state advisor for affiliation with the State Association. Such application shall be signed by the local Young Farm Wives Association president and secretary.

The following material must accompany the application for a charter:

1. A copy of the proposed constitution and bylaws.
2. A list of active members.
3. Names and addresses of the local association officers.

A charter shall be granted by the state advisor provided the proposed constitution is not in conflict with the constitution of the Missouri Young Farm Wives Association, and that it otherwise meets the standards established for the Missouri Young Farm Wives. The charter will be signed by the state president, state secretary, and state advisor of the Missouri Young Farm Wives Association.

The delegates to any state convention shall have the power to suspend association charters upon receipt of evidence of infringement on provisions of the state constitution.

Section B: Determining Standing of Associations -- A local association of Young Farm Wives shall be considered in good standing with the Missouri Young Farm Wives Association provided the following general conditions are met:

1. The local association constitution is not in conflict with the state constitution.
2. The activities of the association are in harmony with the purposes of the State Association.
3. All current reports are submitted to the State president as requested.

In the event a local association is not in good standing at the time of the opening of the state convention, the delegates in the convention shall have the power, on the recommendation of the state executive committee, to withdraw or suspend its charter and refuse such local association official representation at the annual state convention. By meeting the requirements of good standing, a local association may be reinstated by action of the state executive committee, not earlier than ten days after the close of the state convention during which it was not in good standing.

Section C: Determining Standing of Members -- A member is considered in good standing, provided she:

1. Pays local and state dues as specified by the association.
2. Attends association meetings regularly.
3. Participates in the activities of the local association.